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## **NEW REPORT FINDS LOWER PREMIUMS THANKS TO HEALTH REFORM**

*HHS Report Counters Already-Discredited Republican Talking Points*

WASHINGTON – A new report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today shows the impact the provisions of health care reform will have on lowering premiums for American families and businesses. The report further discredits Republican claims that health reform will cause premiums to rise. Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA), ranking member of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, and Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI), ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, today commented on the new report.

Rep. Stark: **"When the numbers don't work for Republicans, they just make up new ones. This new report from HHS shows that American families will save thousands a year thanks to health reform, due to tax credits that lower health insurance premiums and reforms that make the insurance marketplace more competitive. The Republicans have to pretend that these improvements and tax credits simply don't exist for their math to work."**

Rep. Levin: **"This is yet more evidence that repealing health care reform would hurt working families throughout the country. The new law is structured to bring down costs for families and businesses and the Report details these critical savings. With the economy still recovering and families struggling to make ends meet this is no time to retreat from progress under health care reform."**

The non-partisan, Pulitzer-Prize winning Politifact has already rated House Republicans' claims that health reform won't bring down premiums as "false" – read it here: <http://bit.ly/premiumfalse>

The Congressional Budget Office agreed – stating that costs for both individual and employer-provided insurance would go up under H.R. 2, the Republican health reform repeal

proposal:

- "Many people would end up paying more for health insurance— because under current law, the majority of enrollees purchasing coverage in that market would receive subsidies via the insurance exchanges, and H.R. 2 would eliminate those subsidies." (January 6 score of H.R. 2, p. 9-10)
- "Premiums for employment-based coverage obtained through large employers would be slightly higher under H.R. 2 than under current law, reflecting the net impact of many relatively small changes." (p. 10)

That has not stopped House Republicans from repeating their discredited talking point. In this week's hearing, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Camp stated that health reform would lead to "increased premiums for American families."

Today's report further discredits this myth being circulated by Republicans, finding:

- Middle class families purchasing private insurance in the new state-based health insurance exchanges could save as much as \$2,300 per year in 2014;
- Tax credits provided by the health reform law will lead to even greater savings. For example, in 2014 a family of four with an income of \$33,525 could save as much as \$14,900 per year because they will also qualify for tax credits and reduced cost sharing.

The HHS report can be found here: <http://go.usa.gov/YXQ>

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